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DEATH OF THE INHUMANS



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DEATH OF THE INHUMANS

CHAPTER FIVE: "ROME"



Long ago, the Kree experimented on primitive beings across the universe, resulting in the creation of THE INHUMANS. But prophecy warned of the MIDNIGHT KING, an Inhuman who would bring about the annihilation of the Kree, so they ended up destroying all but five of the then-fledgling Inhuman tribes. In time, BLACK BOLT of the Inhumans of Earth would come to rule those five tribes.

But now they are nearly all dead. A faction of the Kree, enraged at the devastation of their homeworld, have ordered all Inhumans to return to their rightful place under the thumb of the Kree—or die. To prove their threat, their mysterious soldier VOX murdered the entire population of New Arctilan, including Black Bolt's brother MAXIMUS and faithful companion LOCKJAW. Then Vox captured Black Bolt and slit his throat.

With his once-powerful voice barely functioning, Black Bolt freed himself and reunited with his family, who have recruited Beta Ray Bill to their cause. Together they killed Vox, but when his mask tore away, they recognized a tortured and transformed Maximus—who immediately exploded, taking Crystal with him.

She awoke in a horrifying laboratory, staring at a Vox mask destined for her. For there is no single Vox. Each Inhuman who seemingly died... has been warped into a killing machine.

How will Black Bolt save his people now?

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SECRETS AND
SILENCE AND
SCREAMS AND
DEATH.

SWORDS AND
CROWNS.

HORROR.

AND ASH.



THERE WAS A
PROPHECY.

THAT A BEING BORN OF THE
KREE'S MEDDLING WOULD SOMEDAY
BRING RUIN TO THEIR SPECIES AND
TO THEIR EMPIRE.

THIS BEING WOULD BE KNOWN
AS THE MIDNIGHT KING.



AND AS WE HAVE WATCHED,
THIS HORRIFIC PROPHECY
HAS FINALLY COME TO PASS.



BUT THE KING KNOWS SOMETHING
THAT WE DO NOT.



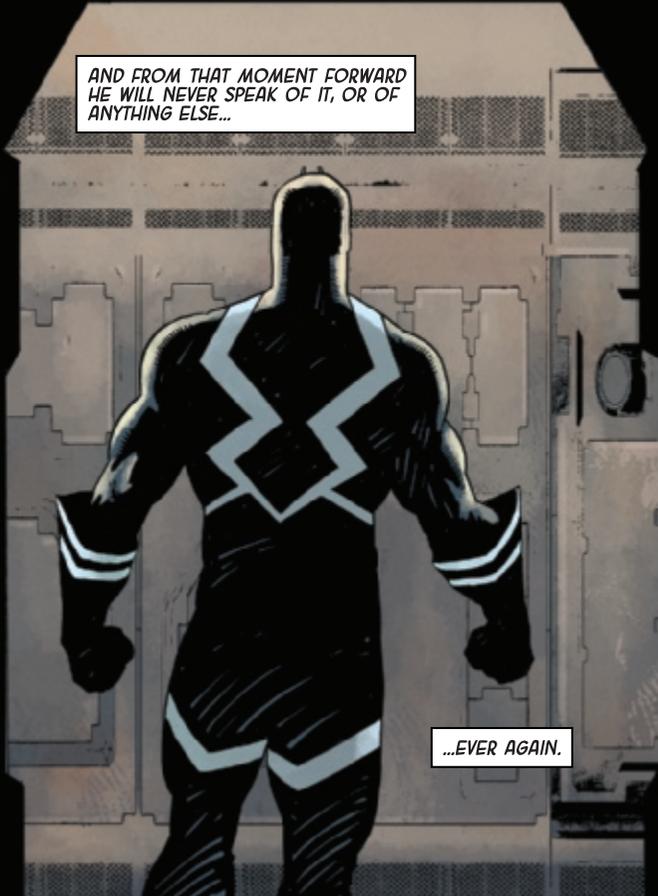
BLACK BOLT KNOWS
THE TRUTH THE
PROPHECY CONCEALS.

BLACK BOLT
WILL SOON
FACE THIS
HIDDEN
TRUTH, AND
HE WILL
ROAR.

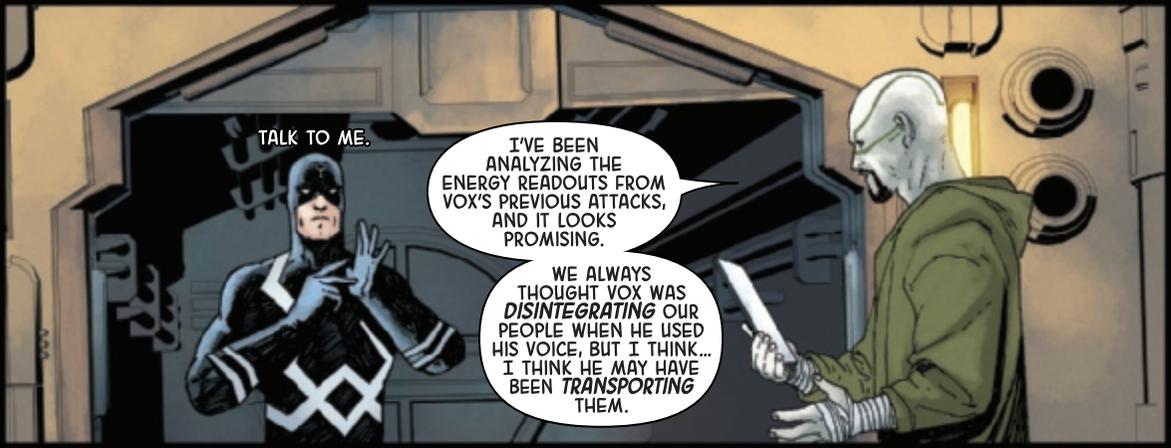
THEN THE
PROPHECY WILL
BE COMPLETE.



AND FROM THAT MOMENT FORWARD
HE WILL NEVER SPEAK OF IT, OR OF
ANYTHING ELSE...



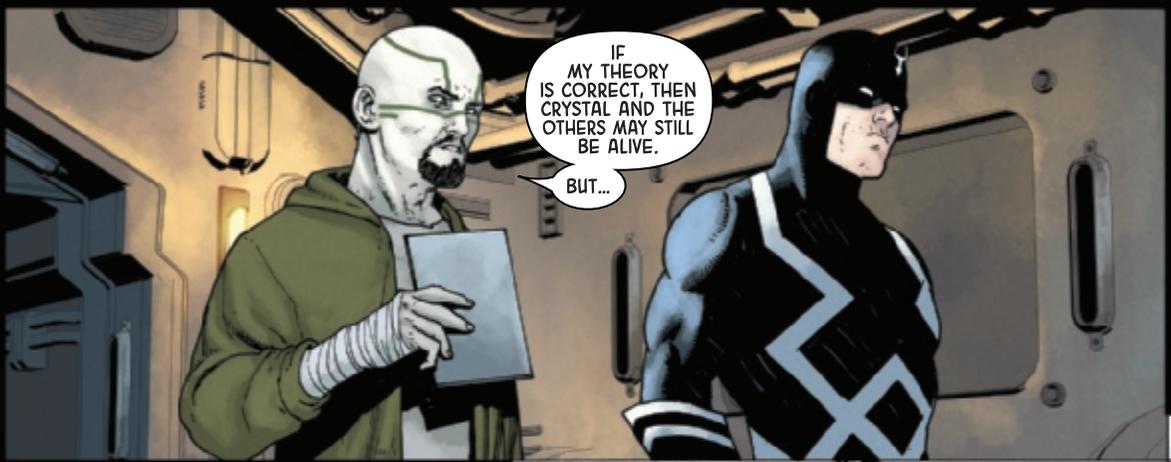
...EVER AGAIN.



TALK TO ME.

I'VE BEEN ANALYZING THE ENERGY READOUTS FROM VOX'S PREVIOUS ATTACKS, AND IT LOOKS PROMISING.

WE ALWAYS THOUGHT VOX WAS *DISINTEGRATING* OUR PEOPLE WHEN HE USED HIS VOICE, BUT I THINK... I THINK HE MAY HAVE BEEN *TRANSPORTING* THEM.



IF MY THEORY IS CORRECT, THEN CRYSTAL AND THE OTHERS MAY STILL BE ALIVE.
BUT...



...WE NEED TO PREPARE OURSELVES FOR WHAT THEY MAY HAVE BECOME.

IF THE KREE TURNED MAXIMUS INTO ONE OF THOSE VOX MONSTERS...

...WE...

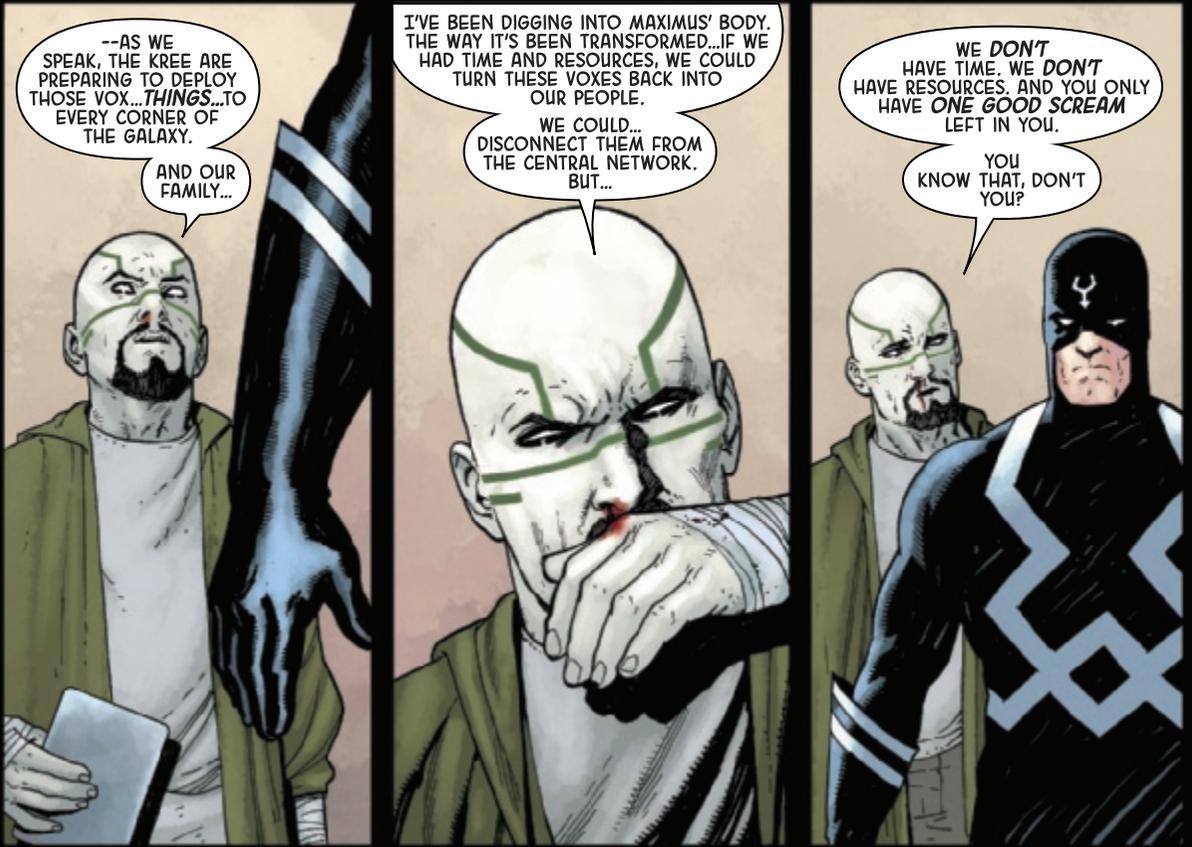


WE CAN'T EXPECT TO SAVE ALL OF--



NO.
MY FAMILY COMES HOME TODAY. FIGURE IT OUT.

M-MY KING.
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND--



--AS WE SPEAK, THE KREE ARE PREPARING TO DEPLOY THOSE VOX...**THINGS**...TO EVERY CORNER OF THE GALAXY.
AND OUR FAMILY...

I'VE BEEN DIGGING INTO MAXIMUS' BODY. THE WAY IT'S BEEN TRANSFORMED...IF WE HAD TIME AND RESOURCES, WE COULD TURN THESE VOXES BACK INTO OUR PEOPLE.
WE COULD... DISCONNECT THEM FROM THE CENTRAL NETWORK. BUT...

WE **DON'T** HAVE TIME. WE **DON'T** HAVE RESOURCES. AND YOU ONLY HAVE **ONE GOOD SCREAM** LEFT IN YOU.
YOU KNOW THAT, DON'T YOU?



I'VE LOOKED AT THE DAMAGE DONE. IT'S EXTENSIVE. SURGICAL. THEY KNEW WHAT THEY WERE DOING.
AT CLOSE RANGE YOU CAN STILL HURT. EVEN KILL IF IT'S POINT BLANK. BUT BLACKAGAR...
IF YOU EVER SCREAM AGAIN...



DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE THAT, OLD FRIEND.
I'M NOT THE ONE TO TELL YOU TO STAY SILENT.
NOT NOW. WE'VE ALREADY LOST THIS FIGHT.



SO...
WHEN YOU **DO** SCREAM...



"...MAKE IT COUNT."

WE'RE JUST OUTSIDE OF KREE AIRSPACE AND HOLDING.

VERY WELL. WE SEEM TO HAVE GOTTEN OFF-PLANET WITHOUT BEING FOLLOWED, BUT WHO KNOWS FOR HOW LONG.

BLACKAGAR...

...WHAT ARE WE DOING?



I, TOO, WOULD LIKE TO KNOW THE PLAN. BETA RAY BILL IS NOT ACCUSTOMED TO RUNNING AWAY FROM A BATTLE.

ESPECIALLY ONE HE IS NOT BEING PAID FOR...



I HAVE RUSHED INTO THIS
BATTLE TOO MANY TIMES
WITHOUT SEEING THE DANGERS
IN FRONT OF ME.

AND AS A CONSEQUENCE, I
HAVE LOST. WE...HAVE LOST.

THERE HAS NEVER IN
MY LIFE BEEN AN
ENEMY I COULD NOT
SHOUT DOWN IF I SO
WANTED.

I REALIZE NOW HOW
WEAK THIS HAS MADE ME.

I AM YOUR KING.



BUT...I SHOULD NOT
SPEAK UNTIL I LISTEN.

SO WHATEVER
HAPPENS NOW, WE
DO IT TOGETHER.



AS A
FAMILY.

AS TO YOUR
QUESTION, I
WANTED TO SEE YOU
ALL AGAIN. I
WANTED TO LOOK
YOU ALL IN THE EYES
AND...

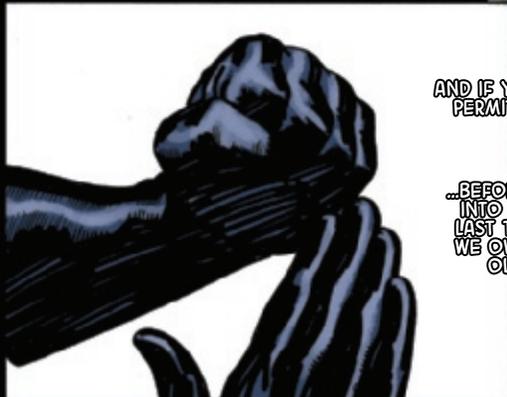
...TELL YOU
THAT...I'M
SORRY.



AND IF YOU WILL
PERMIT ME...

...BEFORE WE JOURNEY
INTO THIS WAR ONE
LAST TIME, I BELIEVE
WE OWE OUR FALLEN
OUR RESPECT.

SO JOIN ME,
PLEASE...





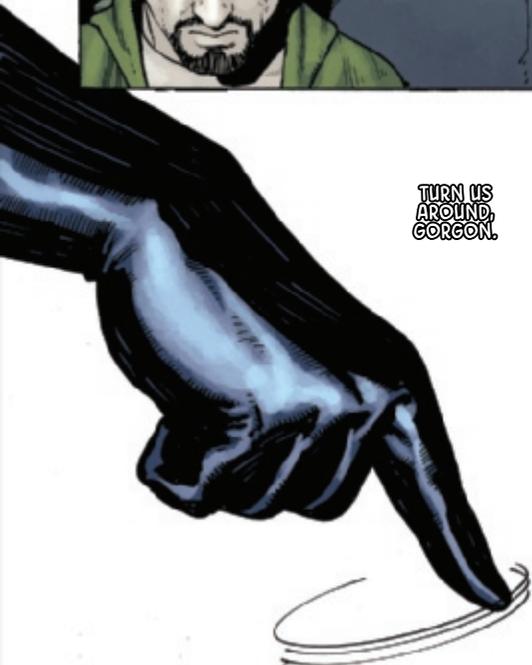
...IN A MOMENT
OF SILENCE.



I DO NOT
SPEAK INHUMAN SIGN
LANGUAGE.



WHAT
ARE WE
DOING?



TURN US
AROUND,
GORGON.



LET'S
END
THIS.